

WAKE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
Thursday, March 19, 2009
ADOPTED Minutes

(Audio Replays of the meeting are available upon request)

A meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission was held on Thursday, March 19, 2009, 7:00 PM, in the Wake County EMS Training Facility, Cary Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Lucius Jones called the meeting to order.

The following members were present: Ms. Ann Suggs, Commissioner Paul Coble, Chief Tony Mauldin, Mr. Billy Myrick, Mr. Robert Stagg, Senator Vernon Malone, Chief Tom Vaughan, Chief David Cates, Battalion Chief Lee Price, Chief Cecil Parker, and Chief Chris Wilson.

Members absent were: Chief Mike Cooper, Ms. Barbara Poole, Chief Mark Haraway, and Chief Rodney Privette.

The following County staff were present: Deputy County Manager Joe Durham, Fire/Rescue Services Director Raymond Echevarria, Budget and Management Analyst Jason Horton, and Public Safety Business Manager Demetric Potts.

Mr. Myrick gave an invocation.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

MINUTES

Upon motion of Commissioner Paul Coble and second by Ms. Ann Suggs, the Fire Commission unanimously approved minutes of the January 15th, 2009, regular meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

FACILITY COMMITTEE

Chief Ed Brinson, Facility Committee Chair, introduced Senior Project Manager Mark Forestieri of Wake County Facilities, Design and Construction. Mark Forestieri provided a brief history of the southeastern fire station project and the station's proposed design. Mark Forestieri then introduced Mr. Kenneth Newell of Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects. Mr. Newell provided an overview of the proposed fire station design. Discussion followed on the building plans. After discussion, Mr. Billy Myrick motioned to approve the schematic design for the new fire station. After a second by Ms. Suggs, the Fire Commission unanimously approved the schematic design.

Chief Ed Brinson requested the Fire Commission consider bidding construction of dormitory improvements. Discussion followed on fire stations included in the project. Commissioner Coble motioned to prioritize the dormitories and do work where needed for personnel currently sleeping in areas that are not code compliant, to advertise the request for bids, and bid stations as a series of alternates. A request was also made to determine if the Town of Cary can provide water service to supply the sprinkler system at Fairview Fire Station #1. After a second by Battalion Chief Lee Price, the Fire Commission unanimously approved the recommendation.

STAFFING PLAN UPDATE

Chief Tony Mauldin of Fuquay-Varina Fire Department asked for clarification on the position allocated to the Fuquay Fire Department. Chief Mauldin asked what would happen to the position if the Town is unable to match the position. Chair Lucius Jones has asked Chief Haraway to review where and how to allocate the position and for Chief Haraway to make a recommendation at the next Fire Commission meeting.

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Captain David Price, Chair of the Equipment Committee, informed the Fire Commission that the Equipment Committee requests the Fire Commission add Cary and Raleigh Fire Departments as voting members to the Equipment Committee. Chief Mauldin motioned to support the Committee's request. After a second by Mr. Billy Myrick, the Fire Commission unanimously approved the request.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Captain David Price provided a report detailing the cost impact of implementing the new salary ranges in the market survey for full-time salaries. Captain Price advised the Fire Commission that the Compensation Committee recommends including funds in the upcoming FY10 budget to implement the new market ranges for full-time positions. Battalion Chief Lee Price motioned to accept the Committee's recommendation. After a second by Ms. Ann Suggs, the Fire Commission unanimously approved the recommendation.

RETIREMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE

Captain David Price presented a recommendation from the Retirement Ad Hoc Committee. The committee recommends budgeting 9.87% as long as the department agrees that its employees contribute 6% of their salary. If approved, the Compensation Committee will develop guidelines for implementation. Mr. Billy Myrick motioned to support the Committee's recommendation. After a second by Chief Tom Vaughan, the Fire Commission unanimously approved the motion.

APPARATUS COMMITTEE

No report.

INFORMATION AGENDA

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chief Parker provided the Fire Commission an update on the Budget Committee's progress in developing a recommended FY10 fire tax budget.

FIRE TAX FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget and Management Analyst Jason Horton provided a fire tax financial report. Jason noted the changes from the January meeting. Discussion followed on part-time staffing costs for departments that received new full-time positions in FY09. Jason Horton deferred to Budget Committee Chair Cecil Parker. Chief Parker informed the Fire Commission that the Budget Committee is scheduled to review part-time staffing at the Committee's next meeting.

CHAIR REPORT

No report.

FIRE/RESCUE DIRECTOR REPORT

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Battalion Chief Lee Price informed the Fire Commission that the Wake County Firemen's Association has called a Chief's Council meeting and invited Fire Commission members to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Ed Brinson of the Fairview Fire Department provided information on volunteerism at the Fairview Fire Department. Chief Brinson presented a request for the Fire Commission to allocate positions remaining from FY09 to Fairview Fire Department and to ask County staff to work with the department to review data and assist the department in developing a plan to reallocate some of our current part-time positions to full-time 24-hour positions.

Mr. Rodney Dickerson, Assistant Town Manager for Town of Garner, informed the Fire Commission of challenges the Town has in getting information about issues and asked to improve communications with the Town.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.